

REMARKS

Claims 1-59 are all the claims presently pending in the Application. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 14, 25, 36, 37, 43, 46, 47 and 55-59 have been amended. This Amendment is believed to be fully responsive to each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 19, 2001. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. No new issues have been raised by the Amendment that would require further consideration or search. Additionally, the Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority and receipt of all priority documents.

Response to Objection to claim 46:

In the Office Action, claim 46 is objected to for minor informalities. Accordingly, the Applicant herein has amended claim 46 to overcome the objection.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:

In the Office Action, claims 13, 25, 56 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, the Applicant herein has amended the claims to overcome the §112 rejections.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-10, 13-22, 25-33, 36-43, 45-47 and 49-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by Bloomfield (U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,931, hereafter Bloomfield). For the following reasons, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-36:

Claims 1, 13, 25 and 36 have been amended to include the limitation “receiving and discriminating transfer destination information from public telephone network by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication,” which is a feature that is not believed to be disclosed by the prior art of record. This feature of the present invention is supported by steps 2-6 through 2-10 in Fig. 2 and in the specification on page 22, line 22 to page 19, line 6. Additionally, further support is found in the specification on page 22, line 7 to page 23, line 3.

According to the present invention recited in claims 1, 13, 25 and 36 (as amended) it is possible to perform FAX to E-mail communication using the standard facsimile communication protocol without adding a specific protocol for FAX to E-mail communication. Specifically, the transfer destination information may be received by a subaddress signal (SUB signal) or selective polling signal (SEP signal).

Conversely, while Bloomfield receives E-mail address inputted at FAX interface device 102, via public telephone network 108 by FAX server 110, Bloomfield does not receive the E-mail address using a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol. That is, in Bloomfield, an E-mail destination address inputted by FAX interface device 102 is sent from FAX device 106 to FAX 110 via public telephone network 108, as shown in steps 932-944 of Fig. 9B and in steps 1032-1056 of Fig. 11B and by the description thereof in the specification. This communication protocol is not the standard facsimile communication protocol, but a specific and additional protocol provided for the facsimile to E-mail communication system in Bloomfield. Therefore, the above claims could not be anticipated by Bloomfield.

Based on the above, claims 1, 13, 25 and 36 are now believed to be allowable over Bloomfield. Likewise, claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-35 and are also believed to be allowable over Bloomfield based on their dependency from claims 1, 13, 25 and 26.

Claims 37 and 55

Claims 37 and 55 have been amended to more specifically point out that the destination address data is included in a “standard” protocol signal, which is a feature that is not believed to be disclosed by the prior art of record. This feature is supported by the description in the specification “the E-mail destination information (E-mail transfer destination information) may be received by a subaddress signal (SUB signal) or a selective polling signal (SEP signal) as a protocol signal of the T.30 recommendation option” on page 22, lines 10-14.

According to the present invention recited in claims 37 and 55 (as amended), it is possible to transmit data to a destination in a different format without adding to the communication apparatus any particular functions in response to a protocol, other than the standard protocol. This is because the destination address data is included in the protocol signal of the standard protocol, and transmitted by the protocol signal. Thus, it is possible to transmit a plurality of destination addresses according to a plurality of destination in a protocol signal.

On the other hand, Houghton discloses that a configuration server 10 receives DTMF tones and/or speaking response from a telephone 20, determines corresponding desired operating parameter settings, and generates a programming signal containing a representation of the desired operating parameter signals.

However, Houghton only sets the operating parameter to correspond to the configuration server 10, but does not hint or suggest sending information data with destination address data to the configuration server 10 using a standard protocol signal. Therefore, claim 37 could not be anticipated or rendered obvious by Houghton.

Based on the above, claims 37 and 55 are believed to be allowable over Bloomfield. Likewise, claims 38-42 are also believed to be allowable based on their dependency on claim 37.

Claims 43, 47 and 56-59

Claims 43, 47 and 56-59 have been amended to more particularly point out that when receiving an instruction indicating a facsimile communication, the received facsimile image is not converted into an E-mail data format. This feature is supported by steps 2-5 and 2-20 in Fig. 2 and description in page 17, lines 8-11 and 17-19 of the specification.

On the other hand, Bloomfield only discloses that received facsimile data is transmitted as E-mail data, but gives no hint or suggestion to change between facsimile to E-mail communication and normal facsimile communication.

Therefore, claims 43, 47 and 56-59 could not be anticipated over Bloomfield.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 11,12, 23, 24, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bloomfield in view of Kulakowski (WIPO Publication No. W0 97/10668, hereafter Kulakowski). For the following reasons, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kulakowski fails to overcome the deficiencies noted above in Bloomfield to render obvious the above claims. Specifically, Kulakowski is directed to a device and method for transmitting or receiving faxes via a computer network and a public telephone network. However, Kulakowski suffers from the same drawbacks as noted above in Bloomfield in that Kulakowski fails to hint or suggest the use of a standard facsimile protocol to designate transfer destination information.

Therefore, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the teachings of Bloomfield and Kulakowski, the combination still would not possess all the claim limitations as recited in claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 34 and 35.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-400, Order No. 1232-4458.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: K. SEKIGUCHI :
Serial No.: 09/123,145 : Group Art Unit: 2622
Filed: July 27, 1998 : Examiner: J. Pokrzywa
For: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND COMMUNICATION APPARATUS
BUILDING THE SYSTEM

ATTACHMENT SHOWING MARKUP OF CHANGES

BOX AF
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Claims 1, 13, 14, 25, 36, 37, 43, 47, and 55-59 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A communications apparatus comprising:

means for connecting to a computer network;

means for connecting to a public telephone network;

facsimile reception means for receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network;

means for receiving transfer destination information of e-mail data from the public telephone network by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol and for discriminating the transfer destination information included in the protocol signal;

conversion means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format; and

transmission means for designating an e-mail destination of the computer network on the basis of the [received] discriminated transfer destination information, and transmitting the e-mail data converted by said conversion means to a destination designated by the transfer destination information.

13. (Twice Amended) A method for a communication apparatus, connected to a computer network and a public telephone network, the communication apparatus having a facsimile communication function, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public telephone network by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol;

receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network;

converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format; [and]

discriminating the transfer destination information including in the received protocol signal; and

designating an e-mail destination of the computer network [in accordance with the received remote instruction] based on the discriminated transfer destination information, and

transmitting the converted e-mail data a destination designated by transfer destination information.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the remote instruction further includes [transfer destination information and] password information of e-mail data, it is checked if e-mail transfer destination information corresponding to the transfer destination

information is set in advance and if the received password information matches password information set in advance, and the converted e-mail data is transmitted in accordance with the checking results.

25. (Twice Amended) A storage medium which stores a computer program executed by a computer of a communication apparatus, connected to a computer and a public telephone network, the communication apparatus having a facsimile communication function, said computer program having:

processing of receiving a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public telephone network by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol;

processing of receiving facsimile image data via the public telephone network;

processing of converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

processing of discriminating the transfer destination information including in the received protocol signal; and

processing of designating an e-mail destination of the computer network [in accordance with the received remote instruction] based on the discriminated transfer destination information, and transmitting the converted e-mail data to a destination designated by transfer destination information.

36. (Twice Amended) A communication system including a communication apparatus which is connected to a computer network and a public telephone network, the communication

apparatus having a facsimile communication function, the computer network having an e-mail server,

wherein said communication apparatus receives facsimile image data from the public telephone network upon reception of a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public network on the basis of a facsimile communication, converts the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format, discriminates the transfer destination information included in a protocol signal of the facsimile communication, and transmits the e-mail data by designating an e-mail destination [in accordance with the received remote instruction] based on the discriminated transfer destination, and

said e-mail server receives the transmitted e-mail data in a postoffice corresponding to the e-mail destination.

37. (Twice Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, [respectfully] respectively;

means for receiving information data with destination address data [from] via one of said networks from a transmission source, wherein said destination address data is included in a standard protocol signal; and

means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data included in the standard protocol signal.

43. (Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting to a computer network;

means for connecting to a public telephone network;

facsimile reception means for receiving facsimile image data from a transmitting source via the public telephone network;

returning means for returning a message in response to a request received from the transmitting source via the public telephone network;

first instruction reception means for receiving an instruction generated based on said message returned by said returning means;

second instruction reception means for receiving an instruction indicates a facsimile communication without reception of the instruction by said first instruction reception means;

conversion means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

processing means for processing the facsimile image data received by said facsimile reception means without performing the converting by said conversion means in a case where said second instruction reception means receives the instruction; and

transmission means for transmitting the e-mail data converted by said conversion means in accordance with the instruction received by one of said first and said second instruction reception means.

46. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim [46] 45, wherein the tone signal is a DTMF signal.

47. (Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via said networks;

means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via said networks;

means for receiving an instruction generated based on said message;

means for receiving another instruction different from said instruction based on said message;

means for processing said information data without changing the format in a case where the another instruction is received; and

means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction.

55. (Amended) A computer program for a communication apparatus comprising:

computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks that have unique formats and addresses, [respectfully] respectively;

computer readable program code means for receiving information data with destination address data [from] via one of said networks from a transmission source, wherein said destination address data is included in a standard protocol signal; and

computer readable program code means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data included in the standard protocol signal.

56. (Amended) A method for a communication apparatus comprising:

connecting to a computer network;

connecting to a public telephone network;

receiving facsimile image data from a transmitting source via the public telephone network;

returning a message in response to a request received from the transmitting source via the public telephone network;

receiving [an] first instruction generated based on said message returned by [said] a returning means;

receiving second instruction indicating a facsimile communication without reception of said first instruction received by said first instruction reception step;

converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

processing the facsimile image data received by a facsimile reception means without performing the converting in said conversion step in a case where said second instruction reception step receives the instruction; and

transmitting the e-mail data converted by said conversion means in accordance with the instruction received by one of said first and said second instruction reception step [means].

57. (Amended) A computer program for a communication apparatus comprising:

computer readable program code means for connecting to a computer network;

computer readable program code means for connecting to a public telephone network;

computer readable program code means for receiving facsimile image data from a transmitting source via the public telephone network;

computer readable program code means for returning a message in response to a request received from the transmitting source via the public telephone network;

computer readable program code means for receiving first instruction generated based on said message returned by [said] a returning means;

computer readable program code means for receiving second instruction indicating a facsimile communication without reception of said first instruction received by an instruction reception code means;

computer readable program code means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

computer readable program code means for processing the facsimile image data received by a facsimile reception code means without performing the converting by said conversion code means in a case where said second instruction reception code means receives the instruction; and

computer readable program code means for transmitting the e-mail data converted by

said conversion means in accordance with the instruction received by one of said first and said second instruction code reception means.

58. (Amended) A method for a communication apparatus comprising:

connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses,
respectively;

receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via
said networks;

returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via said
networks;

receiving an instruction generated based on said message;

receiving another instruction different from said instruction based on said message;

processing said information data without changing the format in a case where the
another instruction is received; and

changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into
another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the receiving
instruction.

59. (Amended) A computer program for a communication apparatus comprising:

computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks which
have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

computer readable program code means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via said networks;

computer readable program code means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via said networks;

computer readable program code means for receiving an instruction generated based on said message;

computer readable program code means for receiving another instruction different from said instruction based on said message;

computer readable program code means for processing said information data without changing the format in a case where the another instruction is received; and

computer readable program code means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the receiving instruction.